

ASSABET

Practical Nurse Program



Program of Studies

2021 - 2022

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ASSABET VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Practical Nurse Curriculum Plan

| Term 1 (12 Weeks) | Theory | Clinical Conference | Clinical Practice | Total Hours |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Nursing Concepts I | 28 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Human Biology | 65 | 0 | 0 | 65 |
| Nursing Care of the Older Adult | 40 | 7 | 0 | 47 |
| Foundations of Nursing | 115 | 3 | 72 | 118 |
| <i>TOTAL HOURS</i> | 248 | 10 | 72 | 258 |

| Term 2 (20 Weeks) | Theory | Clinical Conference | Clinical Practice | Total Hours |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Nursing Concepts II | 142 | 6 | 258 | 148 |
| Nursing Care of the Family | 62 | 6 | 30 | 68 |
| <i>TOTAL HOURS</i> | 204 | 12 | 288 | 216 |

| Term 3 (8 Weeks) | Theory | Clinical Conference | Clinical Practice | Total Hours |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Nursing Concepts III | 68 | 2 | 156 | 70 |
| Preparation for Professional Practice | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| <i>TOTAL HOURS</i> | 88 | 2 | 156 | 90 |

PROGRAMS TOTALS: 545 -----540----- 1085

The clinical and classroom hours may be adjusted between classes based on student need and agency availability. Program Totals will not be affected by adjustments.

***Nutrition: 24 Hours Integrated**

Courses are designed to be taken in sequential order. The courses for each term are prerequisites for subsequent terms and must be successfully completed prior to beginning the next term. Courses assigned to a given term are designed as co-requisites.

Course: *Nursing Concepts I*

Time Allotment: 28 Hours

Course Number: LPN 111-01

Placement: Term I

Course Description:

This course offers the practical nurse student an introduction to professional nursing while assisting the student with the transition and adjustment necessary to develop professional behaviors in nursing practice.

The student's own behavior, life choices and the significance of the student's own thoughts and feelings as they impact nursing care are explored. Healthy and unhealthy mechanisms of coping with stress are examined.

Through discussion of present health care issues, the Massachusetts Nurse Practice Act, CMR 244 and the role of the licensed practical nurse in the contemporary trans-cultural care environment; the student is expected to build a foundation for the professional role.

Safety needs of client's with mental health problems and the role of the practical nurse in meeting mental health needs are addressed. Communication methods, blocks and techniques are examined and practiced.

The student will explore the organizing concepts (competencies) and curriculum structure of the AVRTS-PNP to promote an understanding of student learning outcomes. Concepts of evidenced based practice and clinical reasoning are introduced.

Course: *Human Biology*

Time Allotment: 65 Hours

Course Number: LPN 112-01

Placement: Term I

Course Description:

The course is designed to understand basic anatomy, body systems, microbiology and physiology of the human body. Two major identifying themes; the complement of normal structure and function and homeostasis dominate the content. Concepts of nutrition and beginning pharmacology will be presented. Microbiology as it relates to infection control and immunity will be presented. Students are provided with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding by being provided with exemplars which include pathophysiology and disease as it relates to body systems. This is designed to prepare the PN student to readily apply knowledge of human biology as it relates to patient care.

Course: *Nursing Care of the Older Adult*

Time Allotment: 40 Class Hours
7 Clinical Conference Hours

Course Number: LPN 113-01

Placement: Term I

Course Description:

This introductory course provides an organized body of knowledge about the aging process and developmental tasks. A major aim is to dispel myths about aging, and replace these myths with facts. The course explores the psychological, sociological, economic, ethical, legal and physiological aspects of aging. The nursing process is used to explore needs and challenges, while critical thinking standards are incorporated in relaying information in caring for older adults. Alteration in the communication process is addressed as related to the older adult. The concept based curriculum reflects Nurse of the future competencies as related to the care of the older adult.

Course: *Foundations of Nursing*

Time Allotment: 115 Class Hours
3 Clinical Conference Hours
72 Clinical Hours

Course Number: LPN 114-01

Placement: Term I

Course Description:

This course provides principles, procedures and techniques essential to the delivery of nursing care. The content is organized according to Nurse of the Future competencies. Course outcomes are met through a concept based curriculum that nurtures the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to the practical nursing student. Concepts are utilized as an organizing principle to guide the SPN to “think like a nurse”. Presentation of nursing concepts and basic nursing measures are arranged to proceed from the simple to the complex and will provide the foundation for more advanced nursing care. Internet resources and computerized documentation of patient care are introduced. Awareness of the practice of nursing within a culturally diverse population is emphasized for optimum delivery of patient care. Selected learning experiences are provided in the care of the elderly client in a long term care facility. Therapeutic communication is practiced, critiqued and refined in clinical practice. The role of the SPN as a beginning professional is expanded to include specific nursing skills, emphasizing safety and critical thinking in nursing care delivery. Utilization of current best evidence, technology for medication delivery, documentation, and patient monitoring is introduced. Supportive care and patient teaching is incorporated into clinical assignments and reviewed in clinical post conference.

Course: *Nursing Concepts II*

Time Allotment: 142 Class Hours
6 Clinical Conference Hours
258 Clinical Hours

Course Number: LPN 211-01

Placement: Term II

Course Description:

This course is designed to advance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the practical nursing student. The focus of the course will be on increasing professionalism, safety, communication, with a strong focus Evidence Based Practice. The course includes 137 hours of classroom instruction and exercises. During this portion of the course students learn how to integrate the nursing care based on the overriding concepts of nursing care. The focus is not on teaching students all nursing knowledge but a balance of nursing knowledge and resources to allow the beginning development of clinical reasoning skills. During the 267 hours of clinical practice training students focus on increasing their nursing skills. While providing care based on facility policies and evidence based concepts they are able to gain experience in professionalism and creating a safe environment. Additionally, students hone their communication skills by implementing therapeutic communication to patients and professional communication to other nurses and members of the health care team.

Course: *Nursing Care of the Family*

Time Allotment: 62 Class Hours
6 Clinical Conference Hours
30 Clinical Hours

Course Number: LPN 212-01

Placement: Term II

Description of Course:

This course focuses on the health care needs of the family from infancy through the childbearing years. The basic aspects of human growth, development and behavior through these years are explored. The content is organized utilizing the framework of Orem's Self Care Deficit Theory, concentrating on the supportive educative need for nursing. The student will demonstrate the role of the practical nurse while caring for children with common health care needs in ambulatory pediatric settings and care of low risk mothers and infants on a maternity unit while recognizing deviation from the norm. The student will provide a supportive educative role, utilizing teaching and learning principles with an emphasis on anticipatory guidance to promote health and wellness.

Course: *Nursing Concepts III*

Time Allotment: 68 Class Hours
2 Clinical Conference Hours
156 Clinical Hours

Course Number: LPN 311-01

Placement: Term III

Course Description:

This course offers the practical nurse student an introduction to professional nursing while assisting the student with the transition and adjustment necessary to develop professional behaviors in nursing practice. The student's own behavior, life choices and the significance of the student's own thoughts and feelings as they impact nursing care are explored. Healthy and unhealthy mechanisms of coping with stress are examined. Through discussion of present health care issues, the Massachusetts Nurse Practice Act, CMR 244 and the role of the licensed practical nurse in the contemporary trans-cultural care environment; the student is expected to build a foundation for the professional role. Safety needs of client's with mental health problems and the role of the practical nurse in meeting mental health needs are addressed. Communication methods, blocks and techniques are examined and practiced. The student will explore the organizing concepts (competencies) and curriculum structure of the AVRTS-PNP to promote an understanding of student learning outcomes. Concepts of evidenced based practice and clinical reasoning are introduced.

Course: *Preparation for Professional Practice*

Time Allotment: 20 Hours

Course Number: LPN 312-01

Placement: Term III

Course Description:

The course includes information which will prepare the student for an entry level position as a practical nurse. Opportunities in nursing, as well as the specifics of applying and interviewing for professional positions will be explored. The concepts of leadership, management and conflict resolution will be presented and applied to Nursing Concepts III clinical team leading experience. The student will be encouraged to utilize critical thinking and make therapeutic and management decisions that are evidence based and founded upon principles of clinical reasoning. Responsibilities and delegation of duties will be discussed as defined by the Massachusetts Nurse Practice Act and the Board of Nursing in Massachusetts. Throughout the course, the practical nurse role and professional communication are emphasized. Integrated in assignments and discussion will be issues related to the health care environment, the local community and culture of health. Legal responsibilities and ethical and professional practice for the novice nurse graduate will be examined and discussed.